

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 028103
ORIGIN ARA-10

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R 081841Z FEB 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 028103

FROM ASST. SECRETARY-DESIGNATE TODMAN TO AMBASSADOR LOZANO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, ES

SUBJECT: EL SALVADOR PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

1. EL SALVADOR'S ELECTION IS STARTING TO DRAW INCREASING INTEREST AMONG SOME MEMBERS OF CONGRESS (SENATOR KENNEDY'S OFFICE, IN PARTICULAR). CRITICAL ATTENTION IS FOCUSING UPON THE PROSPECTS FOR FAIR DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES IN LIGHT OF THE 1972 EVENTS AND THE MOST RECENT ELECTION.

2. WE HAVE DISCUSSED THIS GROWING CONCERN WITH AMBASSADOR BERTRAND GALINDO ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS. I KNOW THAT YOU HAVE TAKEN AND WILL CONTINUE TO TAKE EVERY REASONABLE OPPORTUNITY TO UNDERSCORE WITH THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF THE GOES LEADERSHIP THE U.S. CONCERNS THAT BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS
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BE RESPECTED DURING THE ELECTORAL PERIOD.

3. THE DIRECTION OF CURRENT CONGRESSIONAL CONCERN IS REFLECTED IN A STATEMENT BY CONGRESSMAN EDWARD KOCH INSERTED INTO THE JANUARY 19 CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. ENTITLED "DOES DEMOCRACY HAVE A CHANCE IN EL SALVADOR?" IT URGES THE USG TO MAKE "STRONG PUBLIC STATEMENTS OF SUPPORT

FOR DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES," SINCE "THE SAME TYPE OF RE-PRESSION BY THE MILITARY (AS IN 1972) IS EXPECTED." ALSO INCLUDED IN HIS STATEMENT IS AN UNATTRIBUTED REPORT

"THAT AT LEAST PART OF OUR PRESENCE IN EL SALVADOR IS ACTIVELY BACKING THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT."

4. IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT WE DO NOT WISH TO TAKE SIDES IN THIS ELECTION NOR EVEN TO GIVE THE APPEARANCE OF DOING SO. THEREFORE, IF THERE IS ANY INDICATION WHATEVER THAT EITHER GOES OR OPPOSITION FEEL WE ARE ANYTHING BUT IMPARTIAL AND HOPING FOR HONEST ELECTIONS YOU AND OTHER ELEMENTS OF YOUR MISSION SHOULD TAKE ALL APPROPRIATE STEPS TO CORRECT SUCH MISCONCEPTIONS.

5. FYI: NAPOLEON DUARTE ARRIVES WASHINGTON TODAY AND WILL BE CIRCULATING IN CONGRESSIONAL CIRCLES FOR ABOUT ONE WEEK. END FYI.
VANCE

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Message Attributes

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